

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJ: POSSIBLE TRIP OF SEC CHAIRMAN HILLS

REF: (A) STATE 204013

1. QUESTIONS SEC CHAIRMAN HILLS WISHES TO DISCUSS ARE, AS DEPT NOTES, SENSITIVE. ON THE POSITIVE SIDE, WE BELIEVE THE SWISS GOVT IS ANXIOUS TO COOPERATE WITH US IN FIGHTING CRIMINAL AND FRAUDULANT ACTIVITIES. THERE IS ALSO EVIDENCE OF GREATER FLEXIBILITY ON MATTERS TRADITIONALLY TOUCHING ON SOVEREIGNTY AND BANKING SECRECY. HOWEVER, GOS OFFICIALS ARE CONSTRAINED TO MOVE SLOWLY AND CAREFULLY IN ORDER TO AVOID CHARGES OR THE PUBLIC IMPRESSION THAT VIOLATIONS OF SWISS SOVEREIGNTY OR SWISS LAW ARE BEING ALLOWED OR CONDONED. SWISS ATTITUDES ARE MIXED AND IN A TENTATIVE STAGE OF EVOLUTION.

2. THE VISIT OF SEC CHAIRMAN WILL GENERATE INTEREST AND CONCERN. THE PRESS WILL WISH TO QUESTION THE CHAIRMAN ABOUT HIS PURPOSES HERE. CARE WILL HAVE TO BE EXERCISED TO KEEP THE VISIT LOW KEY, IN ORDER TO AVOID JEOPARDIZING THE POSITIONS OF SWISS OFFICIALS AND OTHERS WHO ARE DISPOSED TO COOPERATE WITH US ON SPECIFIC CASES SO LONG AS QUESTIONS OF PRINCIPLE AND SOVEREIGNTY DO NOT CONSPICUOUSLY ARISE.

4. WITH REGARD TO TIMING, AT THE RISK OF LABORING THE
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OBVIOUS, THE FACT THAT WE ARE HAVING NATIONAL ELECTIONS

ON NOV 2 IS BOUND TO BE IN THE SWISS MIND IF WE
SEEK TO STEER TALKS INTO THE AREA OF SPECIFIC POLICY
AND PROCEDURE JUST A FEW WEEKS BEFORE THAT DATE.

5. THE THREE DISCUSSION PARTNERS MENTIONED (MUELLER,
MARKEES AND MONNIER) ARE PEOPLE WE WOULD SUGGEST. THE
GOS, ONCE INFORMED OF THE VISIT, MAY DECIDE, HOWEVER,
THAT CHAIRMAN HILLS SHOULD BE RECEIVED AT A HIGHER
LEVEL.

6. WE WOULD BE GLAD TO ARRANGE MEETINGS WITH SWISS
BANKERS AND THE AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

7. IF CHAIRMAN HILLS DOES DECIDE TO VISIT US, I WOULD
LIKE TO EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT HE WOULD GIVE MY WIFE AND
ME THE PLEASURE OF STAYING WITH US AT THE RESIDENCE. I
WOULD ALSO PROPOSE ORGANIZING A LUNCH, DINNER OR OTHER SOCIAL
OCCASIONS AS HE MIGHT FIND USEFUL FOR MEETING KEY SWISS
OFFICIALS, BANKERS, AND OTHERS IN A MORE RELAXED
SETTIN THAT AT OFFICIAL MEETINGS. I ASSUME THAT HEW
SECRETARY HILLS IS NOT PLANNING TO TRAVEL WITH THE
SEC CHAIRMAN, BUT ANY MEMBERS OF THE CHAIRMAN'S
FAMILY WHO MIGHT BE TRAVELLING WITH HIM TO SWITZERLAND
ARE ALSO MOST CORDIALLY INVITED TO STAY WITH US.
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